SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year — July 2, 1973

No 204

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

Effective way to send a message to Hanoi: resumed air-strikes on North Viet Nam not ruled out.

US Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger's statement on June 18, 1973

Effective means by Hanoi and the NFL to reply in the past as in the present to the Pentagon's message

- **US B.52** *shot down and its crew captured in North Viet Nam*
- **US tanks** *seized by South Viet Nam PLAF*

Saigon economy in the doldrums

SOON after the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, Nguyen Van Thieu flew to the US to beg for new "aid". This spoke volumes for his economic and financial predicament. On May 20, 1973, he sketched a bright picture of prosperity in a 7 post-war-year reconstruction program, but the Saigon press and Western observers stick to their pessimistic views about the prospect of economic rehabilitation in the Saigon-controlled areas, and they had every reason to do so.

A preliminary review of this situation immediately reveals the difficulties — virtually beyond remedy — facing the Saigon administration. The most outstanding problem is the shortage of money especially of foreign currencies to shore up — let alone develop — the post war economy as Thieu has planned.

According to official figures supplied by the US, in the last few years, the Saigon budget has shown a heavy deficit, especially during the "Vietnamization" of the war, namely:

54 billion piastres in 1969
73.6 — in 1970
97.1 — in 1971
221 — in 1972

In the last four years, from 1969 to 1972, the budget imbalance rose nearly 4 times. The volume of money in circulation increased at a quick tempo, causing galloping inflation and repeated devaluations of the Saigon piastre in relation to the American dollar which itself has not been faring any better. A UN report discloses that since 1971, inflation in Saigon has been the fastest in the world. Despite the big amount of currency in circulation, the Saigon administration has been unable to defray the huge war expenditure in recent years. Therefore it has had to rely on US "aid" for its survival. Whereas in the first stage, from 1954 to 1965, every year it received from the US about 118 million dollars of "aid" on the average, in recent years this financial dependency has worsened as follows (figures released by the US):

376,656,000 dollars in 1971
385,825,000 — 1972
585,846,000 — 1973 (figure quoted in the draft submitted by the Nixon administration to Congress on aids to foreign countries).

The bulk of that huge "aid" was used to pay for American goods for the consumption and for production in Saigon-held areas. According to a USAID report in Saigon, the values of US goods imported by Saigon are as follows:

266 million dollars in 1971
313 — — 1972
376 — — 1973

This dependency on US "aid" is characteristic of the economic and financial situation in Saigon-controlled areas. Before the war, South Viet Nam was an exporter of rice and other agricultural products. Owing to the war, her production has come to a standstill and the Saigon administration has constantly suffered a heavy deficit in her trade balance. A *UPI* report dated May 27, 1973 showed that one of the key problems of South Viet Nam is that it imports every year a quantity of goods to the value of 600-700 million dollars while her exports total roughly 30 million dollars only. Worse still, due to the extension of the war and the shrinking of the Saigon-controlled areas, the Saigon administration has had to import a tonnage of rice to the tune of 78 million dollars in 1972 and 100 million dollars in 1973, according to the most optimistic figure.

To maintain that import rate, the only recourse left for Saigon is to tout for US "aid", chiefly "financial aid." However, despite the fact that he has to "sink or swim" with Nguyen Van Thieu, Nixon has his own problems to settle. The US budget continues to be in the red, inflation is spiralling so much so that on June 13, Nixon had to take drastic measures to check it; the dollar continues to be devalorized; the wave of protest is more and more powerful in the US Congress against all forms of US "involvement" in Indochina in general and in South Viet Nam in particular. *AFP* reported on May 27, 1973 that Thieu was sure he would be able to rely on the huge and prompt "aid" granted by the US and was given relevant promises by Nixon when they met in April last. However up to now, the financial aid (to offset the foreign currency deficit caused by the pull-out of US troops from South Viet Nam) of about 150 million dollars and "aid for reconstruction and development" only exist on paper. The reason, according to *AFP* was that the US Congress had rejected such "aid" and the White Honse had its hands full, for instance, with the Watergate scandal.

Pending this, the Saigon administration must spend the small amount of foreign currencies it possesses on imports of necessities and early in May foreign currency reserves of the Saigon administration dropped by 52 million dollars to remain at the 147 million level; some American economists surmised that should this rate continue, the dollar reserves in Saigon safes would fall to 80 million dollars by the end of this year. Significantly, in the past two years the volume of imports made by Saigon has remained the same whereas the international market prices have risen and the dollar, the foreign exchange reserves of the Saigon administration, has been depreciated, compelling it to pay about 100 million dollars more for the same amount of imports.

At the end of May last, the Saigon authorities officially stated that when the US had caught a head cold, Saigon would sneeze. The 585 million "aid" promised to Thieu for the financial year 1972-1973 (as mentioned above) was, owing to the opposition of the US Congress, cut down to 325 million dollars. This year too, though Thieu has tried to create the impression that he has succeeded in obtaining 650 million dollars, American officials in Saigon rather thought that the best he could get would be at most something like 450 million dollars (*Tribune des Nations*, June 1, 1973).

An American economist in Saigon sounded pretty gloomy when he said that the only avenue of escape (for Thieu) was to receive aid, and it looked as if the US would have to continue endlessly to defray huge expenditures.

But Mr Nixon will never be able to be so generous as he has been. The American people and Congress will not let him.

This is a major headache for those who, like Nguyen Van Thieu, make it a rule to whip up an artificial boom with American "aid".

VAN DUC

in the cities

- Drug addiction is now rampant in the Saigon-controlled cities, even in elementary and secundary schools, including the Gia Long High School for girls. According to *Dai Dan Toc* in its June 17 issue, the Saigon administration deliberately encourages the spreading of this scourge by shutting its eyes to narcotic trade.

- The Saigon "City Council" has ordered the city's districts to collect all kinds of taxes, especially the land tax and a variety of others. Collectors of licence fees must collect at the same time land tax, pavement-occupation tax, shop sign tax, advertisement tax and tax on tailors' wardrobes. Those who apply for any certificate or other documents are asked to exhibit a receipt of taxes paid. The tax department has also been ordered to inflict fines on those who are late in paying taxes.

- The Statistics Department of the Saigon administration has admitted that between May 1972 and May 1973 the cost of living went up by 34.4 per cent for middle-class families and by 52.2 per cent for labouring class families. In May 1973 alone, prices rose 22.3 per cent. Skyrocketting were the prices of pork and beef, cooking oil, some vegetables and fruits, fabrics, medicines and paper.

- Boycott was officially declared by Saigon political parties and many MPs against the farcical elections to the Saigon "Senate" scheduled for Aug. 26 next. No candidate was run by any political party by the closing time for entry. Most of the opposition parties viewed those elections as not consistent with the spirit of the present consultations at La Celle Saint Cloud. They criticized Nguyen Van Thieu for having fixed too short a time limit for entry and especially for plotting the establishment of a fascist regime with the Thieu's as unique party.

- On June 21, 12 Saigon MP's tabled a draft bill against the off-year elections to Nguyen Van Thieu's "Senate."

A Representative speaking in the name of that group declared he was against the continuation of the present fascist policy, which challenges all fundamental rights on democratic freedoms and indulges in wholesale repression and arrests. He said that in such circumstances "there can be no clean and free elections."

- On the morning of June 22, a war veteran of the Saigon army, under 30, committed suicide by fire immolation in downtown Saigon not far from Thieu's palace. His action was a clear move for peace.

In November 1971, several people also set fire on themselves in Saigon in protest against the comedy of Thieu's one-man presidential election and to show condemnation of Thieu's continuation of the war.

on the Saigon pavement

CHILDREN are found most active in restaurants where they scavenge for leavings which they put in plastic containers to feast on them at home.

Are also found there lads guiding invalid beggars with whom they do not have the least kinship ties. They are paid for the job. There are also little pavement artistes performing modern and traditional music. Today is their heyday as their profession is made much easier by the availability of dry battery-worked amplifiers.

Many brats perform miracles: a puny boy can dismantle a lorry tyre to the astonishment of his customer.

But the following pavement trade will certainly not be a credit to the Saigon society: there are many pimps under ten operating at Nga Ba, Nga Nam, Hanh Thong Tay; if you have an opportunity of going there, you will perhaps be stunned.

This sight will probably give food for thought to the sociologists.

But how can it be otherwise in a country corroded by war, killings, corruption and prostitution?

"CHANH LUAN"

February 21, 1973

in the liberated areas

ECONOMY

Up to now, Quang Tri has set up over 100 smithies producing farm implements. Over 50 departmental stores big and small and 11 marketing places have been opened to expand the interflow of goods among various districts. The local communication service has restored almost all the main roads, waterways and the Dong Ha port. The Quang Tri postal service has connected with hundreds of miles of telephone lines the delta to the mountain region, and forwarded a sizeable amount of official correspondence, letters and newspapers to public organs and people in the villages and hamlets.

Electric and water plants and car repair entreprises in Binh Phuoc province have been restored.

MEDICINE

Recently the Quang Tri medical service has sent several mobile teams to various localities to innoculate anti-typhoid fever, anti-cholera and anti-plague vaccines to over 80% of people in the province's liberated areas, and attend to thousands of patients. In Gio Linh district, there is a medical worker for every 100 people.

60 per cent of the districts in Central Trung Bo now have doctors at the head of their dispensaries and hospitals. Many hamlets have their own medical stations. Recently, over 100 newly graduated physicians and middle-level pharmacists have been assigned all over the province.

In East Nam Bo, the medical network has been expanded down to the villages and hamlets. The Tay Ninh medical service has dispatched two medical teams to Truong Hoa, Long Than and Binh Thanh sectors (Toa Thanh district) and Long Thuan sector (Ben Cau district) to give medical attention to the Cao Dai believers. People in Loc Ninh district (Binh Phuoc province) have helped restore a 100-bed hospital while in Bu Dop district a 50-bed hospital has been built with the local people's assistance. The medical service in those two districts have given medical examination and treatment to a total of more than 90,000 people.

In West Nam Bo, 20 district maternity homes and medical stations have been set up in a short period. The local military medical continuation school has completed training a batch of specialists in general medicine and pediatrics.

To swell the ranks of medical workers of minority origin, the Soc Trang medical service has opened a training course for people of Khmer origin. In Ca Mau, nearly 100 physicians and medical workers have been trained. Within 3 months, the medical workers in Tra Vinh have given care to over 20,000 people including many Khmer nationals and over 5,000 people in the US-Thieu-held areas.

EDUCATION

The general continuation and popular education services in the liberated areas have set up more schools and classes with a high sense of urgency. Up to now, almost all the hamlets of Binh Dinh have their own schools. The whole province has opened 637 primary and elementary classes with over 500 teachers for nearly 20,000 pupils. Alongside 300 continuation and popular education courses, it has also opened 4 courses of teachers for primary schools and supplied a large amount of text books to the teachers and pupils.

In Ben Tre, 160 more primary and elementary classes have been set up, for nearly 3,000 pupils. The local educational service has also maintained hundreds of hamlet continuation and literacy classes. Officials in the provincial public organs and regional armymen are following in-service continuation classes. A number of "Worker-peasant youth" continuation schools are functioning in Mo Cay, Giong Trom and Thanh Phu districts. In April and May 1973, the local educational service wound up 5 short term continuation courses and opened 3 new ones.

In Ca Mau each village and hamlet has from 3 to 4 schools. After the Paris Agreement came into effect, the Tra Vinh educational service has built nearly 200 more schools, for more than 13,000 pupils including over 800 children from the US-Saigon-held areas. It has also trained over 50 primary teachers, reprinted hundreds of sets of text books.

Together with more schools and classes, the educational services in Quang Tri, Quang Ngai, My Tho, Ben Tre, Kien Tuong... have held conferences to exchange experiences on the educational movement, teaching methods and learning attitude. Active measures to neutralize the effect of US-Saigon depraved culture and education have also been discussed at the same gathering.

To further step up the development of the educational movement, the Educational Ministry of the RSVN PRG has delivered 52 congratulatory certificates and 224 congratulatory papers to public organs, units and individuals which have recorded numerous achievements in education.

CULTURE

To effectively contribute to the preservation of peace, the building and consolidation of the liberated areas, cultural and art work has been promoted among the people. In April and May 1973, the shock song and dance ensemble of Ba Ria—Long Khanh gave performances for thousands of people in the liberated areas as well as in the Saigon-held district of Xuan Loc. In the same period, mobile projection teams in Chau Thanh Tay and Ben Tre provincial capital staged shows against great odds for people in dozens of villages along Highway 6. Numerous Saigon people and armymen were in the audiences.

Since the signing of the Paris Agreement, tens of mobile projection teams have been formed in West Nam Bo. The regional and provincial ensembles have been continually entertaining the local population and fellow citizens of Khmer descent. Their performances and the film shows attract from 3,000 to 6,000 spectators each. Despite the Saigon administration's ban and strict blockade, many of its armymen and people from its areas come to the show.

After the wailing of Saigon songstresses heard through loudspeakers or boring alien dances, these healthy songs and dances performed on the liberated areas' stages are a real refreshing change, comment many of them.

The Kien Tuong province revolutionary administration has distributed 1,500 hectares of land to people from the Saigon-held areas. The local population have put over 41,000 hectares under rice, two thirds of them under autumn rice, and have increased the acreage three times that of 1972.

In Kien Binh, Tuyen Binh and Tuyen Nhon districts the planting of autumn rice and nearly 500 hectares of short term crops has been completed.

In three months after the Paris Agreement was signed, people in the West Nam Bo provinces have rehabilitated over 25,000 hectares of ricefield. In a short period, people in My Tho dredged over 8 miles of canal. With the revolutionary administration's assistance and guidance, people have cleared or restored to cultivation tens of thousands of hectares of land.

Let's sing out to greet our liberated zone !

Guerillas helping farmers

Political prisoners accuse

From "tiger cages"

"In June 1970," Nguyen Thi Ruong, a 28-year-old woman just out of the Poulo Condor penal settlement said, "there were rumours of the visit of a delegation of American Congressmen. Then one day, from our 'tiger cages' we saw an American pass by who asked in Vietnamese:

"Where does this door lead to?"

"It leads to a yard in which pigs, rabbits and poultry are reared. There no human beings," the jailer replied.

"Let's go and see," the visitor mused. He then climbed on top of a tiger cage and saw no domestic animals but political prisoners detained by the Saigon administration.

What struck him most was a basket containing a kind of snow-white powder, on top of the cages. He picked up a handful of that powder to smell at and coughed violently. After mopping his eyes with his hankerchief, he asked the women inmates.

"What is this for?"

"To spray on our heads, and produce the ulcers you can see on our skin. It is quick lime." The American shook his head, saying: "How horrible!"

He saw that the prisoners were all bags of bones and half-dead and had their feet chained to the wall.

"Where do you defecate?" he asked.

We showed him a wooden bucket full of excrements oozing out an intolerable stench.

"Where do you take your meals?" he went on.

We pointed to the same bucket and said: "Around that. A ration consists of a small bowl of rice with a watery fish sauce full of maggots."

As he shook his head and was about to go, we told him:

"We patriotic and peace-loving Vietnamese women are dying a slow death in these most atrocious US-built 'tiger cages'. Be so kind as to tell your fellow Americans what you will have seen here."

Give the children back to their mothers!

This is the story of Nguyen Thi Trua, another woman released on May 11, 1973:

"On May 3, 1972, at 7 a. m., on my way to the market, I was seized by Saigon policemen who tied me up and led me to Vung Tau police station where I was put to the third degree though I was five months gone. After one month of medieval torture, as no confession could be extorted from me, they charged me with "causing an explosion" in the city on the night of May 3, 1972, and sent me to Thu Duc prison. These I was inflicted all sort of brutalities by Cong in charge of the security service, Sau Nhan and Tu Map, chiefly in the presence of American advisers. I nearly died many times.

"In August 1972, the same cruelties were resumed even though I was nearing my time. My mates had to make a great din day and night to compel the prison authorities to send me to a maternity-home.

"After childbirth, I was brought back to Thu Duc to undergo the same horrors. When my child was two months old, it was taken nobody knew where, while I was thrown into a special confinement cell and had to wear a red plate (reserved for political prisoners). Of the one hundred children who accompanied their mothers in prison, twenty were not to be seen again.

"The poor little ones were also prey to harsh treatment. They were left without medical attention, without food and milk.

"I don't know what has become of my only son! Is he alive or dead? Though I am happy to see again our people and my beloved village, I am anxious about the fate of my child. When I was in jail, Nga Huong and I sat up night after night weeping at the thought of our dear little ones who badly needed our care.

Saigon infanticide is one of its most heinous crimes before which world opinion cannot remain indifferent. It is also a flagrant breach of the Paris Agreement."

An unmatched regime

"I was most astonished," Nguyen Huu Hien, a Catholic law student in Saigon wrote on May 30, 1973 "by the 'Viet Cong' announcement that in the last batch of civilian prisoners freed by the Saigon administration, there were twelve civilian detainees from six months to seven years or age, and I was resolved to go and find out the truth, in defiance of all difficulties."

"The story has proved to be true. I even came to know that one of them, Le Quang Trung, a 7-year older, was the son of Mrs Nam Chi of My Tho province. He had served a two-year sentence for his mother and was returned on May 7, 1973 in Quang Tri. It is just unbelievable, isn't it, dear friends! It clashes with all the kind of bright future Mr Thieu has promised. Where do you find on earth a regime which allows the detention and torturing of innocent children who know nothing of this world?

"Our friends who study abroad have perhaps not had the opportunity of seeing such a strange thing! I hope that you will tell the world's peoples these heart-rending scenes of the Thieu regime's making. You are perhaps aware that he is a Catholic and as such he must keep in mind the teaching of the Lord: humanity and fraternity. But what do you think of that behaviour of his?"

What next?

On May 29, 1973, a well-known Saigonese intellectual—he wanted to keep his name off record—said: "The Nguyen Van Thieu regime is a militarist one based on bigoted jingoism. It is opposed by the National Front for Liberation and the majority of the Buddhist and Catholic clergymen, T.U. leaders, students and intellectuals. It has led to a devastating war and has become a huge repressive machine in the service of a foreign country."

"The supply by the US of money and advisers to the penitentiary regime in South Viet Nam has turned Thieu-controlled areas—let us not beat about the bush—into a hell on earth in modern times, no more no less."

"My children (a son and a daughter) were studying at the College of Literature in Saigon when on March 30, 1968—I still remember that date—they were marched away by the police for alleged "anti-government activities." Five years have passed by without any word about their fate, despite my repeated inquiries about their whereabouts.

"In mid-May 1973, I was informed by a man just back from Poulo Condor that after detention in many jails on the main land, my two children had been thrown into a "tiger cages" there. Now both of them are invalid. Even so Thieu still refuses to set them free as stipulated in the Paris Agreement. What will he do next? Will he turn a cannibal and eat prisoners' flesh?"

Serious violations of the new ceasefire order

AFTER the signing of the Joint Communiqué, the Saigon administration refused to carry out the urgent measures as required by the agreement including the publication of the Joint Communiqué. It also misinterpreted the communiqué and made slanderous charges against the RSVN PRG and the DRVN and continued violating all provisions of the Joint Communiqué.

The Saigon administration has mobilized its air, ground and naval forces to launch fierce attacks on PRG-controlled areas violating the Paris Agreement on 2,405 occasions in the past ten days.

On the ceasefire order, the Saigon army has conducted 184 large-scale land-grabbing operations two of which of divisions scale, 19 of regiment-scale, and 86 of battalion-scale. Its aircraft bombed and reconnoitred the liberated zone on 208 occasions. Its artillery fired more than 135,000 rounds on heavily populated areas under the control of the PRG, causing heavy losses in lives and property to the population.

The Saigon administration still denies the people all democratic freedoms. On the contrary, it has conducted some 2,000 police raids, pacification herding the people into concentration camps, carrying out "purges", forcible conscription, and denying the people the right of free movement to earn their living, thus causing the situation to be more and more strained. During their police raids, the Saigon administration has discarded over 8,000 people and arrested and beat hundreds of others.

The Saigon administration has gravely violated Article 2 of the Agreement, and Article 9 of the Joint Communiqué.

On the return of captured personnel, the Saigon administration at recent sessions of the JMC has rejected all proposals of the PRG military delegation on the return of the rest of the military personnel and arrested and detained civilian personnel of the two sides.

On the privileges and immunities of the military delegations, the Saigon administrations has not implemented Article 16 and 17 of the Protocol. Moreover, it has proposed the revision of 11 points of the article concerning the privileges and immunities of the military delegations already agreed upon by the Four-Party Military Commission.

In face of such serious violations, the liberation armed forces have asked Saigon troops to withdraw to places they held prior to January 18. But Saigon forces have continued their ground-cribbing attacks against PRG-controlled areas. To defend the liberated zone and the people's lives and property, the liberation armed forces and people have firmly punished the Saigon violators, repelling all their nibbling attacks and defending the liberated areas. Many Saigon units engaged in land-grabbing operations were wiped out. Many Saigon army posts and positions illegally installed were overrun. Many Saigon nationalist-minded officers and soldiers staged munities and desertions, then crossed over to the people.

editorial

What next?

Meeting in the liberated area for the US-Thieu's serious implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam

NEARLY 2,500 cases of violation in only 10 days after the coming into force of the Joint Communiqué is a cause for alarm indeed. The figure in itself is a positive proof of US-Saigon bad faith.

First, it is clear that the cease-fire order has not been complied with by Saigon. Out of the nearly 2,500 breaches, there have been no less than 184 infantry inroads (including 2 at division strength, 12 at regiment strength and 86 at battalion strength), 1,929 police raids, during which more than 80,000 people have been victimized, and hundreds of others arrested or murdered.

Such actions are still going on in many important areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Remarkably enough, in many a locality, the level of violence is even higher than before the new cease-fire arrangement. In Chuong Thien, immediately after it, 14 Saigon infantry battalions, 1 multi-unit group of commandos, 4 battalions of guards and 3 other outfits assaulted the southern and northern areas of the Ba Lon river, Hoc Hoa and Hoa An, Long Binh and Bac Long My. In Kontum, 12 armour-supported infantry battalions mounted incursions into Dak Ro-cot, Ngo Thanh, Trung Nghia. On June 19 alone, 7,000 artillery shells and over 1,000 mortar shells were fired on the first and the last places.

Meanwhile, at the sessions of the Two Party Joint Military Commission, the Saigon side refuses to discuss the reasonable proposals dictated by the spirit of national reconciliation and concord of the PRG. It makes counterproposals which clash with the Paris Agreement and the Communiqué. It continues to deny the existence in South Viet Nam of two political regimes, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces. It persists in its refusal to enforce democratic freedoms, to allow direct contacts between CO's of both sides at various levels, except at division echelon...

SUCH behaviour has been by no means exceptional but indicative of designs of the darkest dye, more than once betrayed by statements by representatives of the Saigon rule and the US administration. The very signatory of the Communiqué, Nguyen Luu Vien, declared at a press conference called only the next day: "In South Viet Nam, the only government and the only legal government is that of the Republic of Viet Nam." As for the 2 zones of control mentioned in the Paris Agreement they are only "zones of occupation of both sides." On June 10, 1973, Thieu indulged in a good deal of sabre-rattling and anti-communist and war intensification exhortations. No doubt the Saigon fire-eating junta does not want to face the glaring facts of life in South Viet Nam and it bent on annexing the PRG-controlled territories.

As far as the US side is concerned, Presidential aide H. Kissinger objectionably stated immediately after the signing of the new agreement that the US would not be bound by the latter to halt its air bombings in Cambodia. On June 18, 1973, the new Secretary of Defence let it be known that he was contemplating contingencies in which aerial strikes might be resumed in Indochina. What would happen if the action were to be suited to the word?

Both US and Saigon words and deeds are clearly not consonant with the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement and with the independence and sovereignty of the three Indochinese countries. The Saigon regime, aided and abetted by the US has been escalating the cynicism and seriousness of the breaches of its pledges. It has been setting its face against the people's aspirations and the nation's priorities. Its and its master's infringements on the Paris Agreement and Communiqué have assumed an unquestionably systematic and deliberate character and only shown that the leopard cannot change its spots. But they are far from being able to save its skin.

OUR people have peace deep at heart and we all deem it our duty and right to preserve it. We strictly abide by all our commitments laid down in the Paris Agreement and the June 13 Communiqué but we shall not tolerate any action jeopardizing peace and those instruments and shall hold the other sides responsible for their words and deeds.

The present juncture is highly favourable to us and utterly unfavourable to them. We shall not be cowed by their truculence and brutality which only reveals their weak posture and alarm in front of the mounting movement of our people.

To defend the liberated zone, the lives and property of our people, we have to be watchful and combat-ready. Facts show that after the signing of the Paris Accord on Viet Nam and the June 13 Joint Communiqué, the US aggressors and their Saigon valets in their losing position have had to sit and sign at the conference table. Facts also show that barely after the signing, they resume hostilities and strive to betray what has been agreed upon. We deem it necessary to warn those fire-eaters: sow the wind reap the whirlwind. Each of their military ventures only opens the way to fresh reverses.

SOUTH VIET NAM in Struggle

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

All-out efforts in reconstruction

Tens of thousands of Quang Binh youths have engaged actively in reconstruction of their province. They have completed the following jobs: removal of huge amounts of earth to protect 20,000 hectares of rice-growing land from drought and water-logging; extending of the area of the Dong Hoi-Vinh Linh Highway; defusing of thousands of unexploded steel pellet bombs; filling-up of bombcraters; putting under rice and sweet potato of tens of thousands of hectares of land; building of miles long roads for the transportation of timber.

Development of pre-school education

Pre-school education has quickly developed following the ending of the war: classes have been reopened for 300,000 pre-school age children and 96 per cent of the total of smaller ones. 60 per cent of all children in highland provinces attend nursery classes.

There are now nearly 30 teachers' schools from Central to local levels where 40,000 pre-school classes' teachers are being trained.

Music for children

20 composers distinguished for their creations for children in the 1970-72 period, have been awarded prizes by the Central Committee for the Children's Welfare. In the first four months of 1973, 300 musical pieces for children were listed.

Ham Rong electric works fully restored

After days and nights of hectic repairing the Ham Rong Electric Works in Thanh Hoa province has been put back into operation. Pumping stations, no longer idle for lack of electricity, are actively helping the current agricultural production drive. Other branches have also benefited from the job, including industrial units, sanitary and educational establishments, transport and communication facilities and capital construction projects.

«Big Victory» motor launches turned out

The M.N. (Nam Ha province) Engineering Works, well-known for services rendered to agricultural production, has recently developed and produced its first motor launches bearing the name of *Big Victory* These can be used in the control of dykes during the flood season. They can also tow small lighters.

Ten-fold growth of tree-planting movement

In the first three months of 1973, various nationalities of Cao Bang province planted 10 times more trees than in 1972 on formerly bare hills. Moreover in villages bordering on China, pines have been grown on high mountain peaks to form a screen against cold winds.

Plans overfulfilled in the chemical branch

10 chemical factories have overfulfilled their State plans for the first six months of 1973 with total outputs from 100 to 200 per cent above norms. War-damaged factories producing batteries, oxygen and cement have been restored and re-commissioned.

Rally for Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh's immediate freedom!

The "Intellectuals' Committee Against the Saigon administration's Terror and for US-Thieu Strict Implementation of the Paris Agreement," the "Medical General Association," the "Association of Lawyers" and the "Viet Nam Red Cross Society" have jointly held a rally to demand immediate release by the Saigon administration of Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh and other civilian personnel. More than 400 intellectuals from various branches of activity, and many Vietnamese and foreign correspondents were among the participants.

Bumper harvest of rice and auxiliary crops

A bumper harvest of spring time rice and auxiliary crops was gathered by Ha Tinh province. Plans were overfulfilled in terms of acreage, productivity and output.

The acreage under rice is 500 hectares above of plan, rice productivity is two quintals per hectare more than norm, and the rice crop is evenly good in all regions, better than in spring 1972.

Increased production of agricultural machines

Tens of thousands of agricultural machines, totalling hundreds of thousands of H.P.s in capacity, have been turned out by factories. 115 tractors' stations including thousands of tractors have been set up to cater for 200 districts. Dozens of engineering teams have been formed on State farms. Dozens of groups for land-reclaiming and mechanized relaying-out of rice fields have also been set up. Hundreds of electric transformers' stations fitted with tens of thousands of *Diesel* machines have been built.

The number of workers, middle-level technicians and engineers trained to agricultural engineering has now reached some ten thousand.

106 subjects for scientific researches

In the two years 1971 and 1972, the medical staffs of Bach Mai Hospital and the Medical College jointly carried out researches on 106 subjects connected with disease-treatment and the building of the medical branch, namely fundamental surveys, experimental studies, medicine and pharmaceutics at grass-root levels, X-ray, new techniques, and a variety of themes related to prophylaxis and cure.

109 highland villages provided with assistant physicians

A comprehensive medical network was set up in the highlands of Ha Giang province. Infirmaries and maternity homes provided with assistant physicians, medical workers and midwives on round-the-clock duty have been opened in 109 villages. The population are receiving free medical care. People of various nationalities now trust scientific therapeutic methods. In 1972 alone, 44,569 cases were recorded of visits to infirmaries and maternity houses either for medical advice or for medication. 3,740 people received medical care at the infirmaries and 22,395 others at home.

Complementary education drive

Up to now in all North Viet Nam, there are 600 villages with primary and elementary complementary education schools for village cadres. Their school population is over 10,000. There are moreover 2 provincial and 100 district work-study schools, 100 schools for youths of ethnical minorities and quite a number of schools and classes in cities and urban centres with more than 30,000 attendants.

Hydraulics for farming

After 5 months of intensive work, the people of Ha Bac province have built a comprehensive network of canals bringing water down to ricefields. As a result, tens of thousands of 2-crop ricefields are adequately watered, which paves the way to big-scale agricultural production.

130 papers on science

Scientific research was stepped up at the Polytechnical School in the two years (1971-1972) in spite of difficulties caused by the war.

130 papers were submitted to a recent scientific meeting at the school. A number of findings have been applied and have yielded initial results benificial to national defence, transports and communication industry, agriculture, capital construction etc.

US long-range gun baptized by Saigon Prince of the field, *seized and exhibited in Hanoi*

BOOK ON MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

THE Institute of Literature of the Viet Nam Social Sciences Commission has completed a book on Vietnamese medieval literature: *Selected Poems and Writings in the Ly-Tran Period*, an anthology covering the period from 938 to 1418, i. e. five centuries from the *Ngo* dynasty to that of the *Ho* through those of the *Dinh*, the anterior *Le*, the *Ly* and the *Tran* Kings.

This is the fruit of 10 years of research by specialists in ancient literature of the Institute of Literature.

Besides a foreword on research and reconstitution of old documents on the struggle among the three schools of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism and on their respective influence on the literature of that period, the work comprises nearly 1,000 poems and 300 writings in Chinese ideograms or in *nôm* characters (Chinese transcript of the Vietnamese language), translated into modern Vietnamese with abundant annotations.

The book also contains such well-known works as *Exhortations to the Army* by General Tran Hung Dao, the *Decree on the transfer of the Capital City* (from Hoa Lu, Ninh Binh province to the present Hanoi capital) by King Ly Thai To, and other writings hitherto unpublished, among them those of General Ly Thuong Kiet and of the great scholar Mac Dinh Chi.

The first volume will be put out very soon and two other ones within 1974.

A successful friendship visit

SAMDECH Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, Chairman of the National United Front of Kampuchea, Neak Moneang Monique Sihanouk and Yeng Sary, special envoy of the internal branch of the NUFK and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia together with other officials in the Front and Government are continuing their friendship visits abroad.

After six days of an official goodwill visit to the Republic of Senegal, Samdech Head of State and his party went to the Republic of Guinea (May 13-16), the Republic of Mali (May 16-19) the People's Republic of Congo (May 19-23), the Republic of Zambia (May 23-25), the Kingdom of Morocco (May 26-29), the Moslem Republic of Mauritania (May 29-June 1), the Democratic and People's Republic of Algeria (June 1-4), the People's Republic of Albania (June 4-9), the Yugoslav Federal Socialist Republic (June 9-18)...

In all those countries, Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and his suite were given a warm welcome by their heads of state and peoples with full diplomatic honours and profound sympathy with the legitimate fight of the dauntless people of the Cambodia. Receptions and talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality. In several capitals, welcome mass meetings were held for the Khmer guests. King Hassan II of the Kingdom of Morocco decorated the Cambodian Head of State with a Great Cordon of Ouissan Al Arch.

The leaders of the host countries took this opportunity to extol the great victories of the people and national liberation armed forces of Cambodia under the leadership of the NUFK headed by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Royal Government of National Union with Samdech Penn Nouth as Prime Minister and Mr Khieu Samphan as Vice-Premier. They reaffirmed their continued support for the anti-US war of resistance for national salvation of the Cambodian people till final victory and strongly denounced the present brutal air war of the US imperialists in Cambodia. In Guinea, President Sekou Toure said : The Cambodian people's effort is a highly successful one because more than 90% of the national territory with over 5.5 million of the total seven million population have been liberated. The Phnom Penh traitors are in the throes of a profound and irresolvable all-round crisis. Their internal strife is hopelessly aggravating day after day. All the joint communiqués issued after the talks in those countries described the 5-point Proclamation of March 23, 1970 of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Political Program of the National United Front of Kampuchea as the basis for the only sound settlement of the Cambodian problem. The Cambodian problem must be settled by the Cambodian people themselves whose representatives are the NUFK and the RGNUC. One of the joint communiqués made clear that the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia is the only authentic and legal government of the Cambodian people.

On international questions, the joint communiqués reaffirmed the two parties' loyalty to the principle of non-alignment, considering it to be a significant contribution to the struggle for the independence of the Third World nations and especially to the development and co-operation of the Asian and African countries.

It is obvious that through this long tour abroad, Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk has scored splendid gains on the diplomatic front in the interest of the sacred war of resistance for the liberation of the Khmer nation. Such results are at the same time an unmistakable sequel of the remarkable successes on the battlefield.

The South Vietnamese people warmly welcome Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's achievements and strongly believe that together with the big political and military successes in the country, they will vigorously impel the fight of the fraternal Cambodian people, a close and loyal brother-in-arms of the South Vietnamese.

in brief ★ in brief

+ A delegation of the Finnish Metal Workers' Union, led by its chairman, Mr Pentilla, who is also member of the Central Committee of the Finnish Socialist-Democratic Party, has called at the RSVN PRG Information Bureau in Helsinki to congratulate it on the PRG founding anniversary.

A cheque for over 81,000 kroners collected among metal workers in a fund-raising campaign for Viet Nam was handed to the bureau.

+ The 7th Congress of the Albanian women's Association has unanimously adopted a resolution pointing out, among other things, that "the serious and systematic violations of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam by the US, its scheme to maintain and beef up the Saigon administration, its continued military involvement in South Viet Nam, and its savage bombing of Cambodia and Laos prove that it is a very wicked enemy of the Vietnamese people, the other Indochinese peoples, and the world peoples as a whole."

+ On June 10 and 11, the Danish Committee for solidarity with Viet Nam held an extraordinary conference to work out measures to push up all activities in support of Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries. It was decided that the committee will from now on be named the *Denmark-Indochina Committee*, which will keep giving all kinds of support and assistance to the Indochinese peoples. Besides, the committee has presented the PRG Information Bureau with 25,000 Kr.

+ Joseph Buttinger, an American expert on South Viet Nam, has revealed after a trip there that besides some 200,000 patriots detained in many prisons, 800,000 others forced out of their homes are languishing in Saigon concentration camps similar in all respects to Hitler's. These people are prevented from returning to their villages in PRG-held areas.

+ The 6th International Congress on Transport, Ports and International Fishing held in Warsaw from June 4 to 8 adopted a resolution calling for participation of transport workers all over the world in a campaign for material aid to Viet Nam to help her heal the wounds of war and rehabilitate her economy. The Congress hailed the WFTU Executive Committee's decision to set up in Hanoi a vocational training centre as an expression of the solidarity of the working class and the international worker's movement with the labouring people of heroic Viet Nam.

Here and There

FALSEHOODS

AFP reported that on June 12, 1973, the Nixon administration requested the US Congress to vote the subsidies to the two radio stations set up in West Germany to promote anti-socialist propaganda. The Under Secretary of State, Kenneth Ruth, pleaded for the appropriations before the Senate Foreign Relations Commission by saying that the broadcast of the two stations to Eastern Europe was a necessity and that President Nixon had recently commended them and promised them those allowances. Senator Fulbright, Chairman of the Commission objected to the granting of the credit, poohpoohing it as a vestige of the cold war.

For years, the notion of cold war has been lost, in Europe in particular and in the world in general. Making the most possible of the gullibility of the masses, imperialist mass media have been telling falsehoods and lies in the interest of capitalism and colonialism. Raised to a guide line, their brain washing with its nerve-racking repetition, has more often than not succeeded in shaking the most wholesome convictions. Lie, lie more and lie always. Something will come out of nought and something of it will remain. The philosophy is practically the same as the sinister Hitler times'.

Never were lies so honoured. To all sense of truthfulness, of simple decency, regarded as an inconceivable aberration, those propaganda methods are lost. Take for example, the current smear campaign conducted against the DRVN about US POW's allegedly brutalized by the North Vietnamese, in the teeth of American visitors' and many captured pilots' own evidence to the contrary. This once more prompted Jane Fonda to speak up in the *Nouvel Observateur* of June 18 and comment that it was not the US fliers who had been brainwashed in Viet Nam but the American people themselves in their very land. Such a campaign of calumny and mind-poisoning might lead the US to fascism under another form, in which slaves believe they are free, ex-POW's are extolled as heroes and the Pentagon mask are put on Viet Nam's face.

THREATS

The new US Defence Secretary. Schlessinger has intimated to Hanoi, according to AP on June 18, the possibility of re-bombing Indochina, including North Viet Nam. He also said that there was no other suitable political means than continued airstrikes in Cambodia to bring about an over-all settlement for Southeast Asia.

Come, come, Mr Schlessinger. There must at least be some degree of consonance between government spokesmen. Only a few days earlier, an official representative of the US administration had publicly admitted that the lesson learned from the whole Indochina tragedy and the Viet Nam war was the impossibility of imposing a military solution and that nobody can at will make use of force. Is Mr Schlessinger, like other Pentagon brass-hats, an authentic spokesman of the establishment or not ? Which point of view is the official one ?

Never mind. The discrepancy in the US "official" position, at least for the last quarter-century has been indicative of a tendency to revert to isolationism and a nagging desire for colonialist expansion. Trounced in its aggression against South Viet Nam and taken to task by the people and Congress, the US administration however has not brought itself to renounce its neo-colonialist manoeuvres in Viet Nam and Indochina. Hence its reluctancy to comply with the Paris Agreement and its Protocols, the International Conference's Act and lastly the June 13 Joint Communiqué. Hence its propensity to resist, to struggle, each time a pledge is taken and its cynicism in by-passing and breaking the commitments "solemnly" entered into. Its equivocal statement made immediately after the publication of the Communiqué that the US would not be bound by the latter to end all its military operations in Cambodia, Schlessinger's threats, Thieu's anti-communist outbursts and continual violations of the cease-fire order and other antics have roused widespread indignation in Indochina, in the US and in the world.

As for the new fire-eater at the head of the Pentagon, we wish only to remind him of only one thing : take a good look at what happened to the career of all his predecessors with the traumatic Viet Nam experience.

HUONG NAM

For immediate implementation of Paris Joint Communiqué

LAST week voices were warmly raised to acclaim the signing of the Paris Joint Communiqué.

Romanian Chairman of State Council N. Ceaucescu, Cuban Vice-Premier Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Korean Vice-Premier Ho Dam, Hungarian Vice-Chairman of Ministers Council Peter Valyi, Mongolian Vice-Chairman of Ministers Council Raktra, Cambodia Foreign Minister Sarin Chhak, Egyptian Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Al. Anoussy, Sri Lanka Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Jayakody, Norwegian Director of Government Office A. Anderson, the Alliance Committee of Patriotic Neutralist Forces of Laos, 52 French organizations, the NFL organization in Sweden... the press in China, Poland,... all greeted with enthusiasm the document and expressed the world peoples' resolve to do their utmost to support the Vietnamese people's fight until final victory. In Colombo, more than 5,000 people including Buddhist monks and political activists took part in a welcome rally.

It was pointed out by world opinion that the Vietnamese side had been strictly abiding by the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, while the US and Saigon administration had grossly violated or impeded its implementation. The signing of the June 13 Joint Communiqué represented a new gain of the Vietnamese. It was a fresh legal obligation on the US and the Saigon administration to seriously and strictly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, said the Korean Vice-Premier. It was also a new blow dealt at the US imperialists' dark designs to impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam, commented the Cuban Vice-Premier. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka viewed it as a new effort by the DRVN Government and the PRG in their fight for US-Saigon full implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

The newly-signed Joint Communiqué cast a strong light on the US and Saigon regime, exposing them as breakers of the Paris Agreement before the world's eyes. It was an important landmark on the Vietnamese people's road towards their final goals: peace, freedom, complete emancipation from the US imperialists' rule — such was the widespread opinion in Sweden.

The world wished that all signatories to the Communiqué will show their good will and fully implement the various points of it so that political prisoners will be promptly released and hostilities totally ended; the South Vietnamese parties will then be in a position to settle their internal problems in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, the Norwegian Director of Government office pointed out.

Human kind also hopes that although nobody expects the US to do exactly what it has pledged to, although it has wrecked the Paris Agreement after signing it, and stepped-up bombing in Laos and Cambodia after talking peace, the Vietnamese people's persevering fight will finally succeed in compelling it to implement the Joint Communiqué and all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, said the Egyptian Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

52 French organizations recommended that vigilance should be held high and more actions taken if the newly-signed provisions were to be implemented without delay. From the rostrum of the June 17 rally in Bucarest, the Romanian Chairman of the State Council emphatically declared: "We hail the Joint Communiqué signed in Paris relating to the full implementation of all provisions of the Paris Agreement. We hope that everything will be done to end foreign intervention in Viet Nam and in the whole of Indochina so that the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples, who have gone through a bitter war, may concentrate their efforts on healing their wounds of war and strengthening their economy and independence."

Viet Nam and the Third World

THE years old diplomatic activities of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN have exposed two conflicting phenomena.

On the one hand, the countries having consistently set their faces against the liberation movement of the South Vietnamese and refused to recognize the NFL and the PRG have more or less been involved, in one way or another, in US aggression in this country.

On the other hand, the nations having since the outset and the most actively supported the South Vietnamese people's fight for national salvation, and recognized the NFL then the PRG, belong to the socialist camp or the Third World in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Those two facets are not accidental or exceptional. They are something other logical on the strength of the well-known aphorism: "Tell me who are your friends, I'll tell you who you are."

In her report *Diplomatic Activities of the Republic of South Viet Nam in* 1972, Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh said:

"We have adopted a judicious attitude toward international politics and identified ourselves with all peoples fighting against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and for independence, peace, democracy and social progress, which has shown ever more clearly to fraternal and friendly nations that the struggle full of hardships and sacrifices waged by our people is not solely in our own interests but that it is linked to the revolutionary struggle of the world's peoples."

Emerging in the anti-US hightide of the early 1960's, the National Front for Liberation and then the Provisional Revolutionary Government pursued the fundamental objective of driving out the US imperialist aggressors, and building an independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam. That objective represented the urgent need of the South Vietnamese society and the legitimate demands of the South Vietnamese people. It was also in keeping with the revolutionary trend of the world and of the Third World in particular.

That is why, right from the beginning, the NFL—though not a government—was recognized by newly independent countries as the sole legal representative of the South Vietnamese people. Some even established diplomatic relations with it at ambassadorial level. Their governments and peoples regarded the recognition of the NFL, and of the PRG later on, as a display of strong moral support and an expression of their anti-imperialist position.

Naturally, true to its guideline of national independence, the NFL and the PRG have upheld to the best of their abilities the cause of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples now battling for their military, political and economic emancipation. Between the people and the PRG of the RSVN on the one hand, and the people and government of each of the aforesaid countries, there have developed special ties of friendship imbued with militant solidarity against imperialism. Through the statements of their leaders, the governments and peoples of Third World countries do not only highly rate the fighting objective and line of the PRG to solve the Vietnamese problem but also pay tribute to the contribution of the Vietnamese revolution to the ebullient anti-imperialist revolution in the Third World, as an instance of effective support from Viet Nam to the liberation of every nation.

The greatest and most vivid illustration of that militant solidarity is the kind of relationship between Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos in the resistance to American aggression, an unshakable relationship between peoples who have pledged to fight shoulder to shoulder until common victory is achieved, who take concerted action in the field everyday, who give one another the greatest aid they can, and who regard the successes of their brother-in-arms exactly as their own. In their message of greeting to the NFL and PRG leaders for the 4th founding anniversary of the PRG, the leaders of the FUNK and GRUNC said:

"The Cambodian people, the Front of National Union of Cambodia and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia warmly greet the signal achievements of the fraternal people of Viet Nam, as an effective and valuable support to their own anti-US battle for national salvation."

On the same occasion the message of the Lao Patriotic Front leaders also read:

"The dramatic successes of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam in the recent period are historic events in the world movement for national liberation, a tremendous contribution to the Lao people's fight for national salvation, against the US imperialist aggressors, and also an active contribution to the movement against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress of the world's peace- and freedom-loving peoples."

On their part, the NFL and the PRG greatly prize the solidarity and friendship shown them by the peoples fighting against all forms of imperialist oppression and exploitation. They highly appreciate the sympathy and support of those peoples and their governments for the just fight of the Vietnamese.

In an interview on the PRG fourth founding anniversary, Foreign Ministry Nguyen Thi Binh stated: "Of the 32 countries which have recognized the Provisional Revolutionary Government apart from the socialist states, the rest are non-aligned countries, several of which extended their recognition right after their formation."

Peoples in Third-World countries now in a position to decide their own destinies, have found in the combat of the South Vietnamese people, and of the Vietnamese in general, an example and a source of inspiration for their own efforts against colonialism and neo-colonialism, against racial segregation, national independence, democracy and social progress. President Huari Boumedienne of Algeria once said: "Viet Nam's fight is the confrontation of small countries with wealthy and powerful imperialist nations." For the same reason the Conference of the Chiefs of State of more than 60 countries held in Lusaka in Sept. 1970 admitted the PRG representative as an observer, and later on at the Georgetown Conference granted the PRG full membership.

The South Vietnamese people, the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government are quite aware that progressive peoples and governments the world over have been associated with their tremendous victories, more particularly those countries which fight imperialism under every form, for genuine national independence.

At the same time they make it a duty to strengthen their solidarity with Third World countries in the fight against imperialism, and regard it as one of their first and foremost international obligations.

MINH DUC

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION